

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert W. Mueller on July 26, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 12, line 7, after "projecting" added --and unitarily formed--;

In Claim 12, in each of lines 9, 10, 11, and 12, "the groove" has been changed to --each groove--; and

In Claim 12, line 18, "at least" has been changed to --each--.

In Claim 18, line 7, after "projecting" added --and unitarily formed--;

In Claim 18, in each of lines 9, 10, 11 and 12, "the groove" has been changed to --each groove--; and

In claim 18, line 18, "at least" has been changed to --each--.

Claim 22, line 6, after "projecting" added --and unitarily formed--;

In claim 22, in each of lines 8, 9, 11 and 12, "the groove" has been changed to --each groove--; and

In Claim 22, line 20, "at least" has been changed to --each--.

Claims 27-29 are canceled.

In Claim 33, line 7, after "projecting" added --and unitarily formed--;

In Claim 33, In each of lines 9, 10, 12 and 13, "the groove" has been changed to --each groove--; and

In Claim 33, line 21, “at least” has been changed to --each--.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12-22, 24,-26, and 30-36 are allowed.

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

- The closes prior art Powell (US 3,364,768) does not disclose that each one of the hub and the shaft is a thin-walled hollow profile which is internally and externally spline, as recited in claims 12 and 18 lines 18-19, 6-7; claim 22, lines 20-21 and claim 33, line 21-22.
- The prior art Powell (US 3,364,768) does not provide any teaching, suggestion or motivation to modify the prior art as such.
- The externally and externally spline of the thin-walled hollow profile of the hub and the shaft produces critical unexpected results (see specification, page 5, lines 10-17) such that the limitation is not mere common sense or mere design choice.
- There is no cogent reasoning that is unequivocally independent of hindsight that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the prior art to obtain the applicant’s invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The prior cited references US Patent No. 1,586,990 Harrison; US Patent No. 6,183,230 B1 Beardmore et al.; and US Patent No. 4,667,530 Mettler et al. are cited to show a groove profile for positive hub-shaft connection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00-6:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nahid Amiri
Examiner
Art Unit 3679
July 26, 2010

/Michael P. Ferguson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679